United Nations

Daily Highlights

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MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General welcomes news that military intervention in Haiti has been averted; United Nations to begin deployment of military observers later this week.

+ General Assembly, concluding forty-eighth session, establishes United Nations Human Rights Verification Mission in Guatemala.

+ Security Council, in Presidential statement on Friday, welcomes steps taken by President of El Salvador to ensure full compliance with Peace Accords; reaffirms need to scrupulously observe police and public security provisions.

+ Rwanda to hold Security Council Presidency for December following suspension of operation of provisional rule of procedure.

+ Secretary-General welcomes signing of agreement on temporary cease-fire by Tajik Government and opposition.

+ Heavy fighting in Sarajevo subsides after UNPROFOR warns Bosnian Government and Bosnian Serbs that it will take appropriate action to keep peace.

+ Donors to United Nations Action Plan for Sarajevo to meet in Vienna on Tuesday.

+ Last of 43 UNOMIL military observers detained in Liberia now free; 6 NGO aid workers also released.

+ UNICEF deplores killing of staff member by gunmen in Egypt on Saturday; says attack was not directed against United Nations.

+ Economic and Social Council suspends roster status of International Lesbian and Gay Association.

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For information media--not an official record

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today welcomed the news that a military intervention had been averted in Haiti and that conditions had been created for the peaceful implementation of Security Council resolution 940 (1994). He expressed the hope that a secure and stable environment would soon be established through cooperation between the Haitian military authorities and the Multinational Force. He also looked forward to the return of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, and to the resumption of international aid to help rebuild Haiti.

An advance group of 16 United Nations military observers will be dispatched to Haiti later this week, pursuant to resolution 940 (1994). They will be drawn from Argentina, Bangladesh, France, Ireland, Malaysia and New Zealand, according to a spokesman for the Organization. Another 44 observers will be dispatched in 10 days. Meanwhile, the Secretary-General is considering the early redeployment of the International Civilian Mission to Haiti (MICIVIH).

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The General Assembly today concluded its forty-eighth session by establishing the United Nations Human Rights Verification Mission in Guatemala (MINUGUA) for an initial period of six months. The Assembly also authorized an allocation of $7.5 million to fund the Mission.

In a closing statement, President S.R. Insanally (Guyana) said the Assembly had been remarkably active in the past year. Not only were the issues on its agenda comprehensive, but the pace of its work had increased. Now that the constraints of the cold war had been removed, the Assembly could play its proper role in international affairs. However, he stressed that it must continue to seriously examine its methods and procedures to ensure that they were efficient and effective.

During the forty-eighth session, the Assembly adopted more than 330 resolutions, and considered more than 180 items, according to a United Nations spokesman. At present, 178 names are inscribed on the list of speakers for the general debate in the forty-ninth session, including 39 heads of state, 18 prime ministers and two crown princes.

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The Security Council has welcomed steps taken by the President of El Salvador to ensure compliance with outstanding provisions of the country's Peace Accords. In a statement read out by President Juan Antonio Yanez-Barnuevo (Spain) on Friday, the Council reaffirmed the need for the police and public security provisions of the Accords to be scrupulously observed, under the verification of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL).

The Council said it expected the Government of El Salvador to accelerate the demobilization of the National Police. It shared the Secretary-General's concern regarding the limited progress of the land-transfer programme, delays

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and distortions in other reintegration programmes and the unresolved problem of human settlements resulting from the conflict. The Council called on States and international institutions to contribute generously in support of those programmes.

The Council reiterated the need for full implementation of the recommendations of the Commission on Truth. It also welcomed the unanimous election of an independent Supreme Court of Justice as an important step in the reform of the judicial system.

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The Security Council has decided to allow Rwanda to hold the Council Presidency for December. In a statement read out by President Juan Antonio Yañez Barnuevo (Spain) on Friday, the Council said it was suspending the operation of rule 18 of its Provisional Rules of Procedure, which calls for the monthly alphabetical rotation of the Presidency. That rotation will resume in January 1995 with the Council member whose name follows the United States in English alphabetical order.

The Council had previously suspended rule 18 last month, allowing the Presidency to be held by Spain for September, ahead of Rwanda.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has welcomed the conclusion by the Tajik parties of an agreement on a temporary cease-fire. The agreement was signed yesterday in Tehran by the First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Tajikistan, A. Dostiev, and the Head of the opposition delegation, A. Torajonzodah, through the good offices of Special Envoy Ramiro Piriz-Ballon. It establishes a temporary cessation of hostilities on the Tajik-Afghan border and inside Tajikistan until a referendum on a new constitution and presidential elections are held.

The Secretary-General described the agreement as an important step towards the restoration of peace and national reconciliation in Tajikistan. He said he would bring the matter urgently to the attention of the Security Council to enable the deployment of the United Nations observers necessary for the agreement to come into effect.

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Serious fighting broke out around Sarajevo yesterday after Bosnian Government forces launched an attack supported by heavy mortar fire from within the city. Bosnian Serb forces responded with a range of weapons, and later bombarded the city with three heavy mortars removed from a checkpoint manned by French United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) troops.

Fighting died down after the UNPROFOR Commander in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lieutenant-General Michael Rose, warned both sides that he would take appropriate action to deal with the situation. He said that they had

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contravened Security Council resolution 836 (1993), breached the Airport Agreement of 9 February, and violated the 20-kilometer exclusion zone around Sarajevo, and that civilians in the city had been endangered. He also summoned representatives of both sides to a meeting at the airport.

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The first conference of major donors on the United Nations Action Plan for Sarajevo will take place in Vienna tomorrow. The conference will bring together Governments and other donors, as well as United Nations agencies, international organizations and non-governmental organizations involved in carrying out the Plan. It will be chaired by William Eagleton, Special Coordinator for Sarajevo.

The conference will review progress on the implementation of the Action Plan, discuss priorities for future work and assess the funding situation. It will be the first major meeting of donors since the Pledging Conference held in New York in June, which raised $75 million for the restoration of Sarajevo.

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The last 10 of the 43 United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) military observers detained earlier this month were released over the weekend, according to a spokesman for the Organization. In addition, six non-governmental organization aid workers were allowed to leave the camp where they had been protected by the Military Observer Group of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOMOG). All of the detainees are now safely in Monrovia or Abidjan.

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The Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), James Grant, has deplored the killing of a UNICEF consultant, Labib Ibrahim, in an attack by a militant group near Luxor, Egypt, on Saturday. Mr. Ibrahim and four other UNICEF staff members were travelling in an unmarked car to the opening of a health centre at Qena when gunmen opened fire on their police escort. At least two bullets hit the UNICEF car, killing Mr. Ibrahim and grazing a colleague.

UNICEF said that it appeared as if the police escort was the intended target, and that the incident should not be characterized as an attack on the United Nations.

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The Economic and Social Council has authorized its Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to hold an intersessional meeting to inquire whether any International Lesbian and Gay Association member promotes or condones paedophilia. The Council took that action by adopting a resolution submitted by the United States at a special session on Friday.

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The resolution stated that paedophilia was contrary to international human rights standards and to the spirit, purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter. Pending a review by its Non-Governmental Organization Committee, the Council suspended the roster status of the Association. Roster status indicates that the Council considers an organization could make occasional or useful contributions to its work or the work of its subsidiary bodies or other United Nations bodies within their competence.

The Council also decided to consider reinstating the Association's roster status, based on an appropriate recommendation by the Non-Governmental Organization Committee, and on the Association's provision of convincing assurances that neither it, its members nor subsidiaries promoted, condoned or sought legalization of paedophilia.

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